

C. V. Henkle

THE LAY-MAN'S MAGAZINE.

"THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND—AND THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF."

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGERS OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF FREDE- RICK COUNTY, (VA.)

*To the Members thereof and the
Public.*

[Concluded.]

From the Rev. R. Pinkerton.

MOSCOW, MARCH 13, 1815.

"We have made all proper arrangements for printing an edition of the Georgian New Testament. The Christian people for whom this edition is designed, are in the greatest need of the holy Scriptures, as you will have observed from my former communications. Not 200 complete Bibles are supposed to exist among a population of more than half a million, who understand and speak the same language.

Having for ages been surrounded with persecuting Mahommedans, and reduced to the utmost poverty by perpetual wars and commotions, they now thirst for the refreshing streams of the water of life, contained in the oracles of the living God. I have found out a sufficient quantity of excellent Georgian types, which, though all in disorder, have providentially been preserved from the conflagration of this city in 1812. Already we have got them brought into order, and a half sheet set. The Georgian Metropolitan John, and the Archbishop Patnut, who both reside here in the Kremlin, have undertaken to correct the press. The edition is to consist of 5000 copies in quarto, printed in two columns, in order that it may also be used in their churches, where the greatest want prevails; and where

in many parts they have only manuscript copies of the gospels. I expect in a few days to be able to send you the first sheet. We hope that in the course of seven or eight months, the whole edition will be completed; and so soon as a Georgian bible society is established in Teflis, an edition of the whole bible will doubtless be undertaken. The Moscow committee have undertaken to defray the whole expense of the printing and binding of the 4,000 New Testaments. Should the Lord thus prosper the work of our hands, Teflis, being so central, will become a most important station for establishing a depot for promoting the dissemination of the Georgian, Armenian, Persian, Turkish and Tartan Scriptures. Indeed the prospect is most encouraging to every christian and benevolent heart. O that a gracious Providence may benignly smile upon it, and that we may see it realized to the glory of our Redeemer's name, among those distant nations!"

From the Rev. John Patterson.

APRIL 3, 1813.

"Nor are those of them, who are at a distance from the capital, less zealous, active, and liberal. They are the persons to whom we are chiefly indebted for the supply of our funds, and who are the most active distributors of the precious volume.—The number of benefactors and subscribers among the nobility has been very considerably increased; and the Bible Society has brought many excellent Christians and lovers of the Scriptures to view, of whom we were formerly altogether ignorant. The uniting influence of the Bible Society

is no where so obvious as in Russia.— In all we do and say, as far as it respects the distribution of the Bible, we are of one heart and of one soul.— But the most pleasing circumstance of all is, the interest which the lower classes of the inhabitants begin to take in the Bible Society. Not a week passes in which we do not receive lists containing some hundreds of penny and six-penny subscribers. In several places the peasants have come forward of their own accord with their mites. The heathen in Siberia, and the Mahometans in the Crimea, have sent in their gifts; and some of them with a liberality which few christians in comparison have yet imitated. A desire to possess the holy Scriptures has been created,—attention to their divine contents has been excited—and a wish to promote their more general circulation, already pervades the breasts of thousands. The Russian Bible Society is exerting itself to the utmost to satisfy this desire. Hitherto they have been under the painful necessity of listening to the calls of thousands, famishing for want of the bread of life, without being able to relieve them; but this year promises to afford bread for the hungry in more abundance, as appears from the following statement of the progress of the several editions now printing in Russia.

“Preparations for stereotyping the Slavonian Bible, are far advanced; and we look forward with anxious expectation to the day when this powerful machine shall begin to operate.— All we are doing is, in fact, nothing in comparison of this.

92,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures are now printing in Russia, in 12 different languages: the Samogitian, the thirteenth, is resolved on, and will be put to press in Wilna, about the month of June. Over what an extent of country are not these languages spoken: from the Arctic Circle to the Tropic of Cancer; and from

the shores of the Baltic to the sea of Baikal!”

You now perceive, Brethren, what is the nature, the necessity, the benefit, and what is the present prosperous state of Bible Societies in all parts of Christendom. In the language of one of our Western Societies “we have cause to thank God and take courage;”—we should rejoice at what has been done and is doing, but sorrow that so much is left to be done, and that the present exertions and liberality, tho’ great, is yet so inadequate to the supply of the wants of the world. It should be a matter of daily and earnest prayer with each one of us, that God would bless and increase their exertions, and lessen the tremendous mass of vice, ignorance, superstition and misery in the world—and we should attest the sincerity and fervency of our prayer, by a zealous co-operation in this good cause, with those means which God has given us, to promote his glory and the good of mankind, as well as our own private convenience and enjoyment.—Let none say, what are the Heathen, what are the Catholics in Europe, what the Russian, what the Chinese, what the Hindoos to us? They are much to us; they are children of the same Father, are of the same nature with ourselves, capable of arriving at the same Heaven, and liable to the same Hell; they are brethren in calamity; and we should love them and take a lively interest in their welfare, and greatly desire their conversion to the same blessed hope and faith we profess.” “If God so loved us as to give us the knowledge of his Son, so ought we to love one another as to communicate the same to such as are ignorant.—Christian America ought to unite in the great and glorious work of disseminating the Bible into Heathen lands, and we have a good hope that she soon will. But there is much

to be done in our own highly favoured land, which imperiously calls for prompt and liberal assistance. The number of families in these United States, yet destitute, is very great.—The subjoined are extracts from a report of two Missionaries who travelled through our Western States, in the summer of 1814. In November following they write from St. Louis, Missouri Territory :—" At Lancaster (Ohio) we called on the Rev. Wm. Wright, a Presbyterian Clergyman. He has formerly been a laborious Missionary—and has much information respecting the religious state of the Western Country. In Ohio, in his opinion, as many families as one in five, are not possessed of the Scriptures. According to this estimate, more than thirteen thousand Bibles are necessary, in order that there may be one to each family." The Illinois Territory is deplorably destitute of Bibles. In Caskaskias, a place containing from 80 to 100 families, there are, it is thought, not more than 4 or 5." We did not find any place in this Territory, where a copy of the Scriptures could be obtained.

" We could not ascertain that there had ever been any Bibles or Testaments sent into this country for gratuitous distribution, and, comparatively, but a few families are supplied with either. Some, who are anxious to obtain the Bible, and able to purchase it, have been for years destitute. One man, whom we saw in this Territory, informed us, that for 10 or 15 years, he had been using exertions to obtain the Sacred Scriptures, but without success. Notwithstanding there are many ready, and able, to purchase the Scriptures, still there are many others who cannot with convenience supply themselves; and must for years, perhaps as long as they live, be destitute of the Bible in their families, unless their wants are relieved by others, who have a-

bility and a disposition to supply them."

" From the best estimate we could make, with respect to the proportionate number of destitute families in the three Territories, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, we are led to believe that 10 or 12,000 Bibles are necessary in order to supply each destitute family." " You will readily perceive that, living, as most of the people in the Territories, 1000 or 1500 miles from any place, where the Bible is printed, very many of them must, for a long time, remain destitute unless their necessities can be relieved, at least in a considerable degree, by the Managers of Bible Societies in the different states."

Of Kentucky, these Missionaries write :—" The want of Bibles and religious Tracts is very great in this State. Throughout the Western country, the call is much more pressing than the religious public, in the older States, are accustomed to suppose. Could the true state of the destitute be presented, funds, we are persuaded, to a much larger amount would be contributed, to extend to their more effectual relief. The State of Kentucky, according to the last Census, had a population of more than 400,000 souls. Thirty thousand Bibles are probably wanted to supply all the destitute families,—There are about 80,000 people of color, principally slaves, within the limits of the State—It is very rare that a Bible can be found in the possession of any of them, though many of them can read; and were they possessed of it many more would soon learn. One of the Managers of the Bible Society informed us that he had given a few Bibles to these people; and that they had received them with tears of joy. They invoked the blessing of God on those who furnished the Bible for distribution, and on the distributors. They said they valued them more than all things else,

of which they were possessed. Have not these blacks peculiar claims upon us? If their cries for the word of Life do not enter into our ears, they will into the ears of that God, who hears the ravens when they cry; and he may visit us in judgment for neglecting them."

Of Tennessee, they observe: "The want of Bibles and other religious books in this State, is probably as great as in Kentucky. Perhaps one fourth of the population has not a Bible. According to this estimate, which we think is too favourable, more than 10,000 Bibles are wanted in order to give a copy to each destitute family."

March 1815, the Missionaries write concerning the Mississippi Territory.

The whole of this Territory is exceedingly destitute of the Sacred Scriptures. Very few Bibles have ever been distributed in it. The degraded Africans, the number of which is about 20,000, are almost without exception destitute of Bibles. Five thousand copies of the Scriptures, we believe, would not more than supply the destitute. Unless, therefore, some more efficient means are used to enlighten that benighted portion of our country; the day of glory will dawn upon the rest of the world, long before its darkness will be dispelled."

Of the state of Louisiana, they remark, April, 1815:—"There are some American families, in this part of the country, [West Florida] who never saw a Bible, nor heard of Jesus Christ. It is a fact that ought not to be forgotten, that so lately as last March, a Bible in any language could not be found for sale, or to be given away, in New Orleans. And 8000 Bibles would not supply the destitute in this state."

The Missionaries conclude their report which occupies 64, 8 vo. pages, by the following affecting appeal;

"From the estimates made in the preceeding pages, it appears that Seventy Six Thousand Families are destitute of the sacred volume, in this portion of our country. These estimates are not ungrounded and exaggerated conjectures. They are the result of much inquiry and patient examination. It is our sober conviction, that at least 76,000 Bibles are necessary for the supply of the destitute.—And the number is every year increasing.—Most of those who emigrate from the older States are poor. There are many young men who go into that country, and are married afterwards—and never have an opportunity of supplying their families with Bibles. The number of Bibles sent there by all the Bible Societies in the U. States, is by no means as great as the yearly increase of the destitute.—The original number still remains unsupplied.—When we entered on the mission, we applied in person to the oldest and wealthiest of these institutions, for Bibles to distribute in the western country: but we could only obtain one solitary donation.—The existing societies have not yet been able to supply the demand, in their own immediate vicinity. Some mightier effort must be made. Their scattered and feeble exertions are by no means adequate to the accomplishment of the object. It is thought by some judicious people that half a million of bibles are necessary for the supply of the destitute in the U. States. It is a foul blot upon our national character.—Christian America must rise and wipe it away—the existing Societies are not able to do it—they want resources."

*Samuel J. Mills,
Daniel Smith.*

Many other equally interesting facts are detailed in this report:—besides, scarcely a religious publication of the day appears, which does

not contain similar accounts of the deplorable situation of many portions of our beloved country. And must we resort to foreign aid for the relief of the destitute in our own land!—Have we no resources within ourselves; no Bibles; no fellow feeling; no zeal; no bowels of mercy? Is it not time for Christians to awake from their slumbers, to arise in their might, as a strong man out of sleep, and by a vigorous exertion, in humble dependence upon the divine blessing, endeavour to rescue the thousands of their brethren, perishing for lack of vision, and daily rushing down to the gates of eternal death, for want of that blessed gospel, which would be as a lamp unto their feet, and a light unto their path.

Christian Brother, of whatsoever name or denomination, does not your heart burn within you; is not your pity excited, your sympathy kindled, and all the kindly virtues, the nobler feelings of the soul, awakened at the above recital? Can you be content to remain an inactive spectator of passing events;—of the rapid increase of Bible Societies throughout our country, as well as the whole civilized world—of the constant multiplication of translations of the Scriptures into the various languages of the heathen—of the wonderful extension of gospel light in our day, the beams of whose splendor and power, have already penetrated even to the remotest corner of the earth. Can you forbear coming up to the help of the Lord? Surely the night is far spent, and some glorious day is about to dawn upon the world—some bright era about to succeed the amazing exertions which are making for the universal dissemination of the word of God. Shall not we also be up and doing, ready to hail its appearance? shall not we too be active in diffusing that light by which it will be ushered in?

And now fellow citizens and fel-

low christians of Frederick, suffer us to ask, if you can find a better object of charity on which to bestow a small portion of that property which so many of you have, more than is needful to your own wants and comforts? Is the Bible the greatest treasure you have, and the religion thereof your only hope of salvation? Then how can any refuse so small a sum by which the same blessing may be conveyed to others who have it not? Christian friends, as many of you as have hitherto neglected this pleasing duty, come forward without solicitation, and rejoice to add your names and contributions to so excellent a mode of christian beneficence.

We are happy to state that our subscribers continue to increase, and that each year adds something to our sacred treasure. We are peculiarly delighted at being able to add to our list, two subscribers, poor in the possessions of this life, who earn their living by the most laborious occupations; may God return it to them tenfold in this life, and bless them with an everlasting salvation hereafter; and may their example be followed by numbers more able; and their contribution, by the blessing of God, be the means of carrying comfort and salvation into many a destitute family.

LONDON SOCIETY

For promoting Christianity amongst the Jews.

THE London Society was formed in the beginning of 1809. Its objects are to relieve the temporal distresses of the Jews, and to promote their conversion to the Christian Religion.

The means adopted to promote this object have been,

1. The opening of a large Chapel (late one of the French Protestant

Churches, but now called the Jews' Chapel) in Church Street, Spitalfields; where Mr. Frey (a converted Jew) preaches, on Sabbath evenings, a Lecture to the Jews, a considerable number of whom have generally attended.—A Lecture to the Jews has likewise been established, on the first Thursday evening of every month, at Ely Chapel, Ely Place, Holborn, by clergymen of the established Church, connected with the Society. Appropriate tracts have been prepared by Clergymen, and others of the first respectability for talents and piety, and printed in the English, German and Hebrew languages, which have already been distributed very extensively, and are kept in readiness for future occasions.

2. The translation and publication of the New Testament in the Hebrew language, which has never yet been properly executed, but which is the most valuable and important present they can possibly make to the Jewish nation. The gospel of St. Matthew, after having been revised and corrected by learned men, has already been completed.

3. The establishment of a school, for boarding, clothing, and educating the children of such Jewish parents as may be disposed to send them.—This school has been attended with the most pleasing success, and it is hoped, will form a new and distinguishing feature in the history of British benevolence. One hundred and ten children have already been admitted, and their attention, improvement and good conduct afford the Committee the most lively expectations, that they may be considered amongst the first fruits of Israel, and may become harbingers of a glorious and increasing company of believing Jews.

4. The education of Jews, who having been converted to Christianity and baptized into the Church of Christ, may, by the Divine permis-

sion, be the honoured instruments of making known to their own nation the unsearchable riches of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Four promising youths are now educating for this important office, and have given evidence of good abilities and genuine piety: they are, at this time, under the tuition and care of the Rev. Thomas Fry, M. A. Rector of Emberton, Bucks, and late Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford; who educates them gratuitously, and devotes a considerable portion of his time and talents to qualify them to act as Missionaries to the Jews, either in this kingdom or in foreign countries.

5. The erection of an Episcopalian Chapel in the neighbourhood of Bethnal Green, with a School House, for 100 Boys, another for 100 Girls, and an asylum for afflicted Jews and Jewesses, &c. The Chapel, the foundation stone of which was laid by his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, the 7th of April last, is in great forwardness, and is expected to be opened on the first of May next.

6. The Society has established a Printing office, in which several Jews are employed; and where all the publications of the Society are now printed, and any other work in the printing line executed for the public on the most reasonable terms, the profits of which are appropriated to the benefit of the Institution.

7. A manufactory of Candle-wick has likewise been established for the employment of adult Jews, who may be reduced to distress by poverty; or in consequence of being excommunicated from their brethren for attending the Lectures, or for their profession of Christianity.

8. The Society has endeavored to awaken the compassion and zeal of Christians to commiserate the present miserable and degraded state of the Jews, by requesting ministers to endeavor occasionally to excite in their congregations a spirit of prayer

and benevolent attention in behalf of this afflicted nation, and also by distributing appropriate tracts on the subject.

9. Auxiliary committees and correspondencies have been instituted in Westminster, and in many large towns of the United Kingdom, to support the objects of the Institution; and penny Societies have also been established in many places, to which poor persons and others cheerfully contribute their mite, by subscribing one penny per week, respectable Ladies and Gentlemen voluntarily engage themselves to act as Secretaries and Treasurers.

N. B. Fifty seven persons of the Jewish persuasion (including several whole families) have been initiated into the Christian Church by the rite of baptism.

Christians—The nation of the Jews now makes its pathetic appeal to you to have pity upon them, and to unite your compassionate aid, your active zeal, your persevering exertion, to deliver them from worse than Egyptian bondage, from their present awful state of alienation from the living God, and ignorance of the only Mediator—Jesus Christ *their* Lord and ours. The Society, which now feels it an honour to plead their most interesting cause, earnestly requests you to consider that—Whilst Christians of all denominations have united in establishing societies for the civilization of Africa, the conversion of the heathen, the distribution of the Holy Scriptures in all languages—still, alas! the family in whom all the nations of the earth are to be blessed has been neglected, overlooked, and suffered to remain, a by-word and a reproach in the sight of the Heathen. Surely the heart of every real Christian must now begin to plead the cause of Israel, and to cry, in the holy energy of supplication, “Arise, O Lord, and have mercy upon Zion; for it is time that Thou have mercy

upon her, yea, the time is come: for why? Thy servants think upon her stones; and it pitieth them to see her in the dust.”*

It was a striking observation of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia; “I have learned by the experience of all ages, that no man ever touched that people, but he smarted for it.”

The solemn promise and declaration of the unchangeable Jehovah, the God of the Jews, is—“I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed.” Forget not then the honoured seed of Abraham; regard them with respect, affection and gratitude; in them was confirmed the covenant of God in Christ, that grand and everlasting Covenant, the blessings of which through faith are now come upon the Gentiles.

The cause of the Descendants of faithful Abraham, whom the Almighty was pleased to call his friend; the same race whom Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Redeemer, called his Brethren, is presented to your attention, and you are invited to prove your love to Christ, and to testify your sympathy, your compassion, your active zeal, towards the distressed and dispersed of Israel and Judah. Love, respect, honour, and relieve them; for they are still “beloved for the Father’s sake.” The kindness you show them cannot but be acceptable to that God who called Abraham his friend, and of whose illustrious ancestry they are the descendants. Your kindness will ascend as a memorial to Him, who, from *their* house and lineage assumed His *sacred* humanity. Let the Christian Church now open her affectionate arms to receive them; let her exert herself to teach their children again to sing, “Hosannah to the son of David! Pray for

* Psalm cii. 13.—Prayer Book version.—Genesis xii. 3.

the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee; yea, because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good." Psalm cxxii. 6.

Lay-Man's Magazine.

Martinsburgh, June 27, 1816.

We stated some time since that Bishop CROES was consecrated for Connecticut—this was a mistake.—He was chosen by the Convention of Connecticut as their Bishop, but he was also chosen by the Convention of New Jersey, and he was consecrated for New Jersey instead of Connecticut. We perceive by the subjoined, that Connecticut has applied to Bishop Hobart of New York, to perform its Episcopalian Duties.

From the Connecticut Courier.

NEW HAVEN, JUNE 8.

The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church of this State, closed its session in this city last Thursday. We understand that by an unanimous vote of the Convention, application is to be made to the Right Rev. Bishop Hobart of New York, to superintend the ecclesiastical concerns of the Church in this State; and for the present to connect the diocese of Connecticut with that of New York.

In point of numbers and talents, the Convention was highly respectable; and it is to be hoped, that the wishes of so respectable a body of men, and we may say the wishes of the Episcopalians generally, will, if possible, be gratified by the Bishop. No man we believe is more respected by the Episcopalians of this State, than Bishop Hobart; and although, as was the case with their own Bish-

op Seabury, his commanding talents may be dreaded by those narrow-minded men, who are willing to believe that vital piety is confined exclusively to themselves: yet the fervent zeal which in the course of his ministry, he has ever manifested for the cause of christianity, added to a life and character remarkably exemplary, cannot but excite the respect and esteem, of any candid Christian, to whatever sect he may belong.

The following clergymen have been appointed by the Episcopal Convention of this State as Delegates to the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States, to wit: Rev. *Daniel Burhans*, Rev. *Harry Croswell*, Rev. *Roger Searle*, Rev. *Tillotson Bronson*: And the following Lay Delegates,—*Elijah Boardman*, *Asa Chapman*, *Charles Sigourney* and *Burrage Beach*, Esquires.

Obituary.

DIED, near Shepherd's-Town, on Sunday June 16th, Mr. WILLIAM MORGAN, an aged and respectable inhabitant of this country. He was a man of industry—He was a man of probity; he was a tender partner; an affectionate parent; a valuable friend. But notwithstanding all these amiable qualities he reposed in the hours of his illness on the blood of a Redeemer; Christ appeared to him precious and to the righteousness of Christ did he look for hope. May his numerous friends look to the same Saviour—and may they, ere they are called to depart hence, gain an interest in the same Immanuel.

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